Coroner speculates RFK shot by 2 guns

LOS ANGELES (Special-UPI) — A coroner and two ballistic experts yesterday raised doubts on whether Sirhan Sirhan acted alone in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in June, 1968.

County coroner Thomas Noguchi, at a hearing called by County Supervisor Baxter Ward, said the fatal shots were fired from one to three inches from Kennedy's head and not from where witnesses placed Sirhan.

Witnesses to the shooting at the Ambassador Hotel testified before a grand jury that Sirhan—now serving a life sentence for the slaying—was standing several feet or yards away from Kennedy at the time.

DID NOT MATCH

Two ballistics experts, Lowell Bradford and Herbert MacDonnell, added that a bullet taken from Kennedy's back did not match one which hit a bystander.

The bullets, MacDonnell testified, differed in both their manufacture and in the manner in which they were marked by passage through a gun barrel.

His testimony agreed with that of Bradford, who said he also concluded that the two bullets could "not be identified as coming from the same gun."

The two experts urged that Sirhan's .22-calibre weapon be refired to help end the controversy.

District Attorney Joseph Busch declined Ward's invitation to testify at the hearing and called the inquiry "ridiculous."

'NOT VALID'

Busch said the so-called "two-gun" theory, the belief that two persons had been involved in the shooting, had been thoroughly investigated and had no validity.

Lynn Compton, who was chief prosecutor in the Sirhan case, also had hard words for the inquiry.

Compton described the hearing called by Ward—who is running for governor—as "a sideshow performance involving persons whose motives appear to be other than to simply determine the truth."

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